

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-32 (Cancelled)

33. (New) A flexible pouch sealed against gas, comprising:
two side walls rendered integral by at least a sealing line; and
a line of preferential tearing provided in one of the two side walls, the line of preferential tearing being arranged for providing access to a content packaged in the pouch upon tearing the pouch along the line of preferential tearing;
wherein the line of preferential tearing extends along the sealing line, the distance between the line of preferential tearing and the sealing line being less than or equal to 6 mm.
34. (New) The pouch according to Claim 33, wherein the distance between the line of preferential tearing and the sealing line is less than or equal to 4 mm.
35. (New) The pouch according to Claim 33, wherein the line of preferential tearing extends facing at least one edge of the pouch, the distance between the line of preferential tearing and a pouch edge nearest the line of preferential tearing being greater than 9 mm.
36. (New) The pouch according to Claim 33, wherein:
the line of preferential tearing extends from an edge of the pouch;
edges of the walls corresponding to said edge of the pouch from which the lines of preferential tearing extend are sealed together; and

a notch is made in the sealing zone of said edges of the walls at the line of preferential tearing.

37. (New) The pouch according to Claim 33, wherein:
the line of preferential tearing extends from an edge of the pouch;
edges of the walls corresponding to said edge of the pouch from which the line of preferential tearing extends are sealed together; and
a notch is made in the sealing zone of said edges of the walls at a level intermediate between the line of preferential tearing and the sealing line.
38. (New) The pouch according to Claim 37, wherein the distance between the edge of the sealing line towards the line of preferential tearing and the edge of the pouch facing which the line of preferential tearing extends and which is the closest to the line of preferential tearing, is greater than 9 mm.
39. (New) The pouch according to Claim 33, further comprising: another line of preferential tearing provided in the other of the two side walls, this other line of preferential tearing lying opposite the line of preferential tearing provided in the first of the two side walls.
40. (New) The pouch according to Claim 33, further comprising: a second line of preferential tearing provided in the side wall in which the first line of preferential tearing is provided, the second line of preferential tearing extending parallel to the first line of preferential tearing, the distance between the two lines of preferential tearing being less than or equal to 8 mm.

41. (New) The pouch according to Claim 40, wherein two other parallel lines of preferential tearing are provided in the other of the two side walls, the two other lines of preferential tearing extending opposite the two lines of preferential tearing provided in the first of the two side walls.
42. (New) The pouch according to Claim 33, wherein each side wall is made from a film comprising a light-metal layer held between two plastic layers.
43. (New) The pouch according to Claim 33, comprising: several sealing lines forming a multi-line sealing strip, the width of this strip being greater than 9 mm.
44. (New) The pouch according to Claim 33, wherein each side wall in which is provided a line of preferential tearing is made from a film comprising at least one plastic layer.
45. (New) The pouch according to Claim 33, wherein the pouch is of a type intended to undergo heat treatment for preservation treatment.
46. (New) A flexible pouch sealed against gas, comprising:
 - two side walls rendered integral by at least a sealing line, the width of the sealing line being greater than 9 mm;
 - and
 - a line of preferential tearing provided in one of the two side walls, the line of preferential tearing being arranged for providing access to a content packaged in the pouch upon tearing the pouch along the line of preferential tearing;
 - wherein the line of preferential tearing extends along the sealing line, the distance between the line of

preferential tearing and the sealing line being less than or equal to 6 mm.

47. (New) The pouch according to Claim 46, wherein the distance between the line of preferential tearing and the sealing line is less than or equal to 4 mm.
48. (New) The pouch according to Claim 46, wherein:
 - the line of preferential tearing extends from an edge of the pouch;
 - edges of the walls corresponding to said edge of the pouch from which the line of preferential tearing extends are sealed together; and
 - a notch is made in the sealing zone of said edges of the walls at a level intermediate between the line of preferential tearing and the sealing line.
49. (New) The pouch according to Claim 46, further comprising: another line of preferential tearing provided in the other of the two side walls, this other line of preferential tearing lying opposite the line of preferential tearing provided in the first of the two side walls.
50. (New) The pouch according to Claim 46, comprising:
 - a second line of preferential tearing provided in the side wall in which the first line of preferential tearing is provided, the second line of preferential tearing extending parallel to the first line of preferential tearing, the distance between the two lines of preferential tearing being less than or equal to 8 mm; and
 - wherein two other parallel lines of preferential tearing are provided in the other of the two side walls, the two other lines of preferential tearing extending opposite the

two lines of preferential tearing provided in the first of the two side walls.

51. (New) The pouch according to Claim 46, wherein each side wall is made from a film comprising a light-metal layer held between two plastic layers.
52. (New) A flexible pouch sealed against gas, comprising:
 - two side walls rendered integral by at least a sealing line; and
 - a line of preferential tearing provided in one of the two side walls, the line of preferential tearing being arranged for providing access to a content packaged in the pouch upon tearing the pouch along the line of preferential tearing, in which the line of preferential tearing extends along the sealing line, the distance between the line of preferential tearing and the sealing line being less than or equal to 6 mm;
 - the pouch capable of containing moist foodstuffs.